

CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A computing system, said computing system comprising:

a communication link for bi-directionally providing a communication channel between a host computing device and a companion computing device;

said companion computing device comprising a display and further comprising a control device for transmitting a request for a language element to said host computing device over said communication link; and

said host computing device being responsive to a receipt of said request for a language element for transmitting to said companion computing device an image representation of the requested language element over said communication link for display on said companion display device.

2. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said host computing device stores the language element as one of a bitmapped representation or a character code representation in at least one database.

3. The computing system of claim 2 wherein individual ones of a plurality of said databases are each associated with a specific language.

4. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said host computing device stores the language element as said image representation.

5. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said host computing device stores said language element in a textual form and converts said requested language element to the image representation thereof.

6. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said host computing device stores said language element as one or more ASCII codes and converts said ASCII codes to a bitmap representation thereof in response to receiving said request for the language element.

7. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said host computing device stores said language element as one or more Unicode codes and converts said Unicode codes to a bitmap representation thereof in response to receiving said request for the language element.

8. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said companion computing device stores the image representation transmitted from said host computing device for later use.

9. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said companion computing device comprises a digitizer input system having an electronic pen or stylus for handwritten information.

10. The computing system of claim 1 wherein said communication link is a wired or wireless communication link.

11. A method of providing language element support to a companion computing device from a host computing device, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request for a language element to said host computing device from said companion computing device;

receiving said request for a language element by said host computing device; and

in response to said receipt of said request for the language element by said host computing device, transmitting to said companion computing device a bitmapped representation of the requested language element for display by said companion computing device.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said host computing device stores the language element as one of a bitmapped representation or a character code representation in at least one database.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein individual ones of a plurality of said databases are each associated with a specific language.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein said host computing device stores said requested language element as said bitmapped representation.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said host computing device stores said language element in a textual form and converts said requested language element to the bitmapped representation thereof.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said host computing device stores said language element as one or more ASCII codes and converts said ASCII codes to the bitmap representation thereof in response to receiving said request for the language element.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein said host computing device stores said language element as one or more Unicode codes and converts said Unicode codes to the bitmap representation thereof in response to receiving said request for the language element.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein said companion computing device stores the bitmapped representation transmitted from said host computing device for later use.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein said companion computing device comprises a digitizer input system having a pen input device for inputting written information.

20. The method of claim 11 wherein said requested language element is transmitted over a wired or a wireless communication link.

21. A storage medium having computer readable program instructions embodied therein, said storage medium comprising:

program instructions for transmitting a request for a language element to a host computing device from a companion computing device;

program instructions for receiving said request for a language element at said host computing device; and

program instructions, responsive to said receipt of said request for the language element by said host computing device, for transmitting to said companion computing device a graphical representation of the requested language element for display by said companion computing device.

22. The storage medium of claim 21 further comprising program instructions for enabling said host computing device to select said language element from a database, wherein said database is associated with a specific language.

23. The storage medium of claim 21 further comprising program instructions for enabling said companion computing device to store the graphical representation transmitted from said host computing device.

24. The storage medium of claim 21 further comprising program instructions for enabling said host computing device to store said requested language element in a textual form and to convert said requested language element to the graphical representation thereof.